

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the Specification to correct typographical and grammatical errors.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 17-20 have been amended to define the claimed invention with greater specificity.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the claimed disposable article is a single-ply disposable article.

Claims 3-6 have been amended to reflect the amendment to Claim 1.

Claim 7 has been amended to specify that the claimed disposable article comprises two plies each having a surface topography exhibiting regions and minimum and maximum calipers that are adhesively joined together in a face-to-face relationship.

Claim 16 has been cancelled. New Claim 21 incorporates the subject matter of cancelled Claim 16.

New Claim 22 has been added.

Support for the amendments is found in the Specification, Drawings and Claims as originally filed.

No new matter has been added by the amendments. Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-15 and 17-22 are pending. An additional claims fee accompanies this Amendment.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102:

Claims 1-5 and 7-19 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,958,555 to Takeuchi et al. ("Takeuchi"). The Examiner asserts that Takeuchi discloses a material comprising at least first and second creped sheets, wherein the crinkles of the creped sheets are aligned in a first direction and wherein the sheets are bonded by parallel rows of adhesive.

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 7, as amended, are not anticipated by Takeuchi because Takeuchi fails to teach each and every element of Claims 1 and 7, as amended. More particularly, Applicant submits that Takeuchi fails to teach a single-ply article that incorporates an adhesive coating as is claimed in Claim 1, as amended, nor a disposable article as claimed in Claim 7, as amended. Further, Applicant submits that Takeuchi fails to teach an article wherein two plies each having a surface topography exhibiting regions and minimum and maximum calipers that are adhesively joined together in a face-to-face relationship.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Takeuchi. Further, Applicant submits that Claims 2-5, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, as amended, and Claims 8-15 and 17-19

(Claim 16 has been cancelled), which ultimately depend from Claim 7, as amended, are not anticipated by Takeuchi.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103:

Claims 1-20 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103 as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over Takeuchi, discussed above. The Examiner asserts that Takeuchi discloses a disposable article, however, the Examiner recognizes that Takeuchi does not teach a ratio of wet to dry caliper that is at least 1:1. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have selected the appropriate adhesive row spacing, which Takeuchi teaches is related to the ratio of wet to dry caliper, through the process of routine experimentation in order to produce the optimum expansion of the sheet.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's conclusion that the teachings of Takeuchi render the claimed invention as claimed in Claims 1-20 obvious. Applicant respectfully submits that Takeuchi fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention as claimed in Claims 1 and 7, as amended, and Claims 2-6, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, as amended, and Claims 8-15 and 17-20, which ultimately depend from Claim 7, as amended. MPEP 2143.03. More specifically, Applicant submits that Takeuchi fails to teach a single-ply article that incorporates an adhesive coating as is claimed in Claim 1, as amended, nor a disposable article as claimed in Claim 7, as amended.

New Claims

Applicant respectfully submits that new Claims 21 and 22, which ultimately depend from Claim 7, as amended, are not anticipated by, nor rendered obvious over Takeuchi.

Conclusion

WHEREAS Applicant has made an earnest effort to overcome the rejections of the claims, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein and a notice of allowance of Claims 1-15 and 17-20, as amended, and new Claims 21-22.

Respectfully submitted,

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